

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Meeting of 18 January 1944

War Department
State Department

Department of Commerce
Navy Department
Library of Congress
Office of War Information
Treasury Department
Foreign Economic Administration
Interdepartmental Committee

Col. Hale
Mr. Bohlen
Mr. Gerber
Mr. Kopp
Comm. Riheldaffer
Mr. Moriarty
Mr. Krould
Mr. Southworth
Mr. Chaput
Miss Guhn
Miss Kodadek
Sgt. Clift
Miss Reynolds
Mr. Fairbank
Ensign Kilgour

Ensign Kilgour presided,

Mr. Fairbank spoke at length about the methods and problems of obtaining publications in China with particular emphasis on obtaining publications from Japan and Occupied Areas. He spoke of the need for supplying the Chungking Outpost with original publications to be used for trading purposes and the Committee indicated that this should be done. Mr. Fairbank also stated that he felt that there was some doubt in Mr. Kates' mind as to whether or not he is authorized to purchase and subscribe to Japanese publications. The Committee requested the chair to transmit a telegram to Mr. Kates giving him specific authorization for the purchase of publications.

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Mr. Gerber reported that a Press Reading Service was being established in Moscow as a joint project by the American and British Embassies and the Australian Legation. This Press Reading Service will make translations of important articles in Russian publications. These translations would then be air pouched to Washington and the State Department will endeavor to distribute them among Washington Agencies. The State Department had obtained some funds from the Navy and War Departments to help finance the project and wished to request similar funds from IDC. After some discussion Mr. Shaw moved that the Committee contribute to the support of the Moscow Press Reading Service at the rate of \$3000.00 per year for six months and at the end of the first six months review the results obtained to determine whether the Committee should continue, increase, or discontinue its financial support of the project. Mr. Chaput seconded the motion. The question was put to vote and unanimously approved.

Miss Reynolds announced that she was completing the listing of about 500 books that had been received in recent weeks and inquired if the Committee wished to appoint a Sub-Committee to determine the distribution of these books. The Committee decided to go over the list of titles at its next regular meeting.

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